

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Healthy children are the most important resource in the great state of South Dakota; and,

*Whereas*, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is the leading cause of mental retardation in South Dakota, the United States, and all of western civilization; and,

*Whereas*, As many as 1 in every 500 individuals in these United States may be adversely affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol; and,

*Whereas*, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Effects are a root cause of numerous social disorders, including learning disabilities, juvenile delinquency, school dropouts, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, and crime; and,

*Whereas*, Economists estimate that each individual with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Effects will cost the U.S. taxpayer nearly \$2 million in his or her lifetime; and,

*Whereas*, People around the world will be observing International FAS Day on September 9, 2003, in order that on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the 9<sup>th</sup> month of the year, the world will remember that during the 9 months of pregnancy a woman should abstain from alcohol:

*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2003, as

### *FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY*

in South Dakota, in order to promote awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol, to increase compassion for those individuals so affected, to minimize further effects, and to ensure healthier communities across South Dakota in the future.

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighteenth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.



M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:



Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

